

Oregon Daily
Emerald
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Perspectives

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No Excuses!



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

The standard student moan throughout Eugene is that there isn't enough to do that's fun or interesting. While it's easy to fall into that mindset during the dreary eternity that is the Willamette Valley rain season, there are enough activities around campus to keep students occupied that there should be no reason to seek mischief.

Obviously, there are plenty of scholastic events and clubs that one can choose to belong to. Students interested in politics can work with the ASUO, there are business and marketing fraternities and there are always fascinating guests lecturing on topics that are often overlooked in the rush of everyday life.

There is a multitude of on-campus sites to relax and recreate that are only moments away from anyone who desires entertainment. The EMU offers a recreation center, an arcade, restaurants, a ballroom and The Buzz for varying tastes for one's enjoyment palette. There are special events, such as the ASUO Street Faire and David Spade's comedy, to break up any monotony some may feel.

If anyone wishes to keep active while close to campus, there are innumerable opportunities to join sports teams or pick up a hobby. Billiards and golf are not only found around town, they're taught as one-credit courses, along with trampolines and badminton. There are intramural sports offered such as floor hockey, flag football and basketball to get out some ag-

gression if it becomes so necessary.

For someone who seeks a little additional culture to enrich their life, the University offers the Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Art. Both are on campus and both offer fantastic alternative views to where we as people come from, where we are and where we're going.

The area also offers a great many hiking, biking and kayaking sports that make for days full of fresh air, nature's beauty and a different pace of life. Those who seek a bit of danger in a sport associated with the great outdoors can go rock climbing at Eugene's Crux Rock Gym.

But people shouldn't have to worry that a hike down the campus streets will be as dangerous as rock climbing. The University area has been witness to a remarkable amount of juveniles acts over the last few years. Halloween riots, vandalism and burning couches falling from buildings are just a few of the flavorful happenings that needn't have taken place.

The most basic excuse for mischief is a claim that there are no alternatives to causing trouble, but rather the lack of interesting stimuli is in fact an inherent invitation to wrongdoing. This argument doesn't hold water because it ignores the responsibility of the individual to society in favor of a faultless mass of egoists.

As a member of a campus that places a high premium of peaceful coexistence, it is incumbent upon each and every student to find peaceful and safe means to pass his or her free time and to forgo inciting others to mischievous acts.

With so many interesting events and venues around the area to keep even the most fickle resident enthralled, there isn't any need for people to turn to destructive activities to amuse themselves.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

THE WEEK IN THUMBS



To a new support network for those who need it:

The Student Parent Association provides students with children an instant community network to others in the same situation.

To allowing everyone to serve:

Great Britain will allow gays in the military, giving everyone an opportunity to improve themselves while helping their country. It's hard enough to find good people without adding unnecessary bans on service. This is a hilarious comment that we just had to repeat for your enjoyment.



To restrictive clothing rules:

The Esslinger Hall gym does not allow sports bras, tank tops or spandex for those working out in the facility.

To the prying eyes watching you:

Four KEZI employees were fired after a high-powered camera lens may have been adjusted to view guests in their rooms at the Eugene Hilton hotel.

Letters to the editor

Face reality

I found it interesting that the stories about the Genocide Awareness Project protests and the free speech platform appeared together in today's Emerald (ODE, Oct. 12). The protesters who decided that students should be shielded from this form of expression (posters depicting acts of violence and brutality) seem anxious not to be seen as intolerant of the First Amendment rights of others. The fact that they covered these posters with bed sheets speaks rather more loudly to me

than does their denials of intolerance.

The images are starkly ugly and brutal. The display's message, that abortion belongs to that set of horrible, brutal things that we humans do to other humans is disturbing but deserves to be listened to. It confronts us with the possibility that we, too, are capable of committing (or consenting to) morally equivalent acts. The fact that for much of our culture, abortion has become socially/politically/legally acceptable does not make this possibility unthinkable; lynching and anti-semitism were acceptable to significant parts of the cultures of the times when the poster im-

ages were recorded.

I understand that these ideas and images make people uncomfortable; they should. They show us what real, living human beings have done to other human beings. They invite us to question beliefs and practices that we have come to accept as moral. If we find ourselves unwilling to allow these ideas and images to confront and disturb us, perhaps we are not the champions of truth, freedom and tolerance that we imagine ourselves to be.

William Moore
 classified staff

Abortion not the only way

Whenever the humanity of an individual or group is denied, their

rights — even their lives — are at risk. This is one of the points that the Genocide Awareness Project is attempting to make. I believe it could have been made without using photos that are insensitive to the Jewish and black communities. In the furor over the images used to make that point, the question of abortion as an issue of justice is being overlooked.

Our society celebrates the rights of the individual while neglecting the common good, which really means then that the powerful have more to celebrate. In this situation anyone who depends upon another for life is at risk. It should come as no surprise, then, that the unborn, the elderly and the terminal-

ly ill are especially vulnerable.

People offer seemingly compelling arguments for abortion: pregnancies that occur because of rape or incest, overpopulation, birth defects, the poverty of the mother, etc. Whether or not you believe abortion deprives the unborn of their rights, it must be admitted that abortion does nothing to change the unjust social and economic structures that make abortion a compelling choice at all. There are other solutions to these systemic problems.

Seeking solutions to these problems would seem to me to be an appropriate role for a university community.

the Rev. Michael Fones, OP
 director, UO Catholic Campus Ministry